

## HOME GROUP NOTES --- 7th. October 2018 - Harvest

### ICE BREAKER

Do you enjoy growing things? What is your favorite harvest – and why is it so?

### WORSHIP - say together or sing this hymn:-

*We plough the fields, and scatter the good seed on the land,  
But it is fed and watered by God's almighty hand:*

*He sends the snow in winter, the warmth to swell the grain,  
The breezes, and the sunshine, and soft, refreshing rain.*

***All good gifts around us are sent from heaven above;  
Then thank the Lord, O thank the Lord,  
For all His love.***

*He only is the maker of all things near and far;  
He paints the wayside flower, He lights the evening star;  
The winds and waves obey Him, by Him the birds are fed;  
Much more to us, His children, He gives our daily bread.*

***Chorus.***

*We thank Thee then, O Father, for all things bright and good,  
The seed time and the harvest, our life, our health, our food.  
Accept the gifts we offer for all Thy love imparts,  
And, what Thou most desirest, our humble, thankful hearts.*

***Chorus.***

Reflect upon the hymn before moving on.

### WORD

#### Read Joel 2:1 - 27

1. Joel is prophesying in the Southern Jewish kingdom of Judah. What is he observing and where and why do you think he is laying the blame for all the troubles?
2. What has been the record of the rulers of the two Jewish kingdoms since the death of Solomon? How do you think that

the common people have been behaving in response to their rulers?

3. What is the prophet Joel trying to remind the people about after their suffering from the devastation the locusts have wrought?
4. Where do you think the focus of the nation should be directed in response to the prophet's words?
5. **Read Matthew 6:25 – 33.** This is part of Jesus' teaching we know as "the sermon on the mount." Food is essential for life, so what do you think Jesus means by telling us not to worry about it?
6. What about people in the third world? How do they react? How should they react?
7. Clothes are essential for humans in cold climates. But is "fashion" essential? How do "developed" societies react to the clothing industry – and how should we in the light of Jesus' words?
8. So where should Christians be focusing their attention this harvest time?
9. And where should Christians be focusing their attention all the time – and why? **Read John 3:16 – 17.**

### WITNESS

Pray for the people who have suffered from natural disasters such as the earthquake and tsunami in Indonesia.

Pray for the troubled spots in our world – that the people may come to have a peace that only God can give.

Pray for the faithful teaching and preaching at St Michael's & St. John's.

Pray that many more people in our communities will turn to Christ rather than focus on excessive food and clothing!!

Pray for those who are ill or in any kind of need, and those who have been bereaved, remembering especially those who are and have been members of our churches.

**Close with the Grace.**